

AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today we award a Congressional Gold Medal to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in recognition of her courageous commitment to peace, nonviolence, human rights, and democracy in Burma.

Mr. Speaker, the images we have seen from Burma over the past year have been nothing short of horrifying. Soldiers firing automatic weapons into unarmed crowds and the charred body of a Buddhist monk, slain, lying face down in a pool of water stained with blood, are just two examples of the oppression that continues to plague Burma.

In the face of this horror, a hero has emerged. For close to 20 years, Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi has continued to fight for freedom and equality in Burma in the face of tremendous adversity. She has been arrested on numerous occasions, held under house arrest, and even had an attempt made on her life. In spite of this, Suu Kyi continues to speak out and to urge democracies throughout the world to come to Burma's aid. Her message is a simple one: "Use your liberty to promote ours."

Today, as we award the Congressional Gold Medal to Suu Kyi, we stand with her to demand democratic change in Burma.

I believe that while change will not come overnight to Burma, it will come. And when it does, it will be my great pleasure to join my colleagues in welcoming Aung San Suu Kyi to Washington so that we can thank her in person for her historic and courageous stand for liberty.

PAUL E. GILLMOR POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and former colleague, Congressman Paul Gillmor, by supporting the designation of the U.S. Postal Service Office located at 175 South Monroe Street in Tiffin, Ohio, as the "Paul E. Gillmor Post Office Building".

While we all miss our friend, this designation will serve to honor him for his distinguished career in public service in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate, and for living his life as a true gentleman.

The reference to being a "true gentleman" is something that will have a special meaning to members of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, and it's something that I would like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as a tribute to Paul Gillmor.

Paul and I were both members of the SAE's during our time at Ohio Wesleyan University, and our fraternity has a motto that describes

what it takes to be a true gentleman. I think this passage by John Walter Wayland describes Paul Gillmor and how he lived his life. It reads as follows:

"The True Gentleman is the man whose conduct proceeds from good will and an acute sense of propriety, and whose self-control is equal to all emergencies; who does not make the poor man conscious of his poverty, the obscure man of his obscurity, or any man of his inferiority or deformity; who is himself humbled if necessity compels him to humble another; who does not flatter wealth, cringe before power, or boast of his own possessions or achievements; who speaks with frankness but always with sincerity and sympathy; whose deed follows his word; who thinks of the rights and feelings of others, rather than his own; and who appears well in any company, a man with whom honor is sacred and virtue safe."

Mr. Speaker, I think that my colleagues would agree that Paul Gillmor lived the life of a true gentleman as a father, a husband, a friend and a public servant.

With that said, I appreciate today's effort to move this well-deserved legislation forward, and I urge everyone to honor and remember our friend and colleague, Paul Gillmor.

COMMENDING THE STATEMENT OF VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE AT THE U.N. CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN BALI

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, at a watershed moment in global diplomacy last week, our distinguished former Vice President, Al Gore, stepped in to fill an enormous U.S. vacuum in leadership. At the world summit on global warming in Bali, Indonesia, this new Nobel laureate once again took on the necessary role of the nation's conscience in the effort to save our planet from a looming climate catastrophe. With a candid and clear-eyed address, Vice President Gore provided a powerful bridge of hope to world leaders who were struggling to make real progress in setting a roadmap toward a treaty designed to stave off the most devastating impacts of global warming.

In his speech, Vice President Gore courageously confronted the "inconvenient truth" that right now, at this moment in history; the principal obstruction to progress in the global effort to confront the Earth's greatest existential threat is the United States of America. He urged the assembled delegates in Bali to overcome their anger and frustration at this obstacle, vowing that "over the next two years, the United States is going to be in a place it is not now." The Vice President also offered a solution, suggesting that rather than trying to move the Bush Administration, the climate summit simply should circumvent it by leaving "a large open space" in the document to be filled in when U.S. leadership is finally restored.

Inspired by the Vice President's address, the U.N. delegates finally and resolutely rebuffed the administration's effort to block consensus on a "Bali Roadmap" by reaching a consensus that commits all nations to negotiate a new, scientifically valid deal to fighting

global warming by 2009. The resolve to face down the White House was best perhaps best articulated by the delegate from Papua New Guinea—who, addressing the U.S. delegation in the final diplomatic showdown, declared, "If you cannot lead, leave it to the rest of us. Please get out of the way."

Madam Speaker, our distinguished former congressional colleague, Al Gore, has provided our Nation and our global community with great leadership. At a time when our own Administration has let us down, Vice President Gore has reminded the world that, in his words, "political will is a renewable resource."

I commend the text of the Vice President's historic address to my colleagues. To date, this landmark in the global climate discussion has not been published in its entirety anywhere, but I am honored now to place a verbatim transcript of it in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Al Gore's words should inspire all of us to work to fill in the "large open space" that our current administration has left in the place where U.S. leadership normally resides.

SPEECH AT THE UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE, BALI, INDONESIA, DECEMBER 13, 2007

(By Al Gore)

I am not an official of the United States, and I am not bound by the diplomatic niceties. So, I am going to speak an inconvenient truth. My own country, the United States, is principally responsible for obstructing progress here in Bali. We all know that.

We all know that. But, my country is not the only one that can take steps to ensure that we move forward from Bali with progress, and with hope. Those of you who applauded when I spoke openly about the diplomatic truth here have a choice to make. You can do one of two things here. You can feel anger and frustration and direct it at the United States of America, or you can make a second choice. You can decide to move forward and do all of the difficult work that needs to be done and save a large open blank space in your document and put a footnote by it. And when you look at the footnote, write the description of the footnote. This document is incomplete, but we are going to move forward anyway on the hope—and I am going to describe for you why I think you can also have the realistic expectation—that that blank will be filled in.

This is the beginning of a process designed to culminate in Copenhagen two years from now. Over the next two years, the United States is going to be somewhere it is not now. You must anticipate that. Targets must be a part of the treaty that is adopted in Copenhagen. And the treaty, by the way, should not only be adopted in 2009: I urge you in this mandate to move the target for full implementation of this treaty to a point two years sooner than presently contemplated. Let's have it take effect fully in 2010, and not 2012. We can't afford to wait another five years in order to replace the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol.

So we must leave here with a strong mandate. This is not the time for business as usual. Somehow we have to summon, and each of you must summon a sense of urgency here in Bali. These are not political problems, they are moral imperatives. But our capacity to strip away the disguise and see them for what they really are and then find the basis to act together to successfully address them is what is missing.

The greatest opportunity inherent in this climate crisis is not only to quickly deploy the new technologies that will facilitate sustainable development, to create the new jobs